

22 JULY 1965

BRITISH SUBJECT PLEADS GUILTY IN SPY CASE

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Report from Courtroom

Copyright English to the United Kingdom 1900 GMT 22 July 1965--L

(Text) Here is our report from the courtroom where Gerald Brooke, a British subject, is on trial for subversive anti-Soviet activities. (Voice recording in Russian, presumably of Brooke--ed.)

(Announcer:) That is Gerald Brooke pleading guilty on all counts in reply to a question from the president of the court. Under Soviet law, the defendant makes his plea after the indictment is read. Gerald Brooke, a 27-year-old Russian language teacher from London, arrived in the Soviet Union in April at the head of a tourist group. The case is being heard by the Moscow city court. The president of the court is Lev Almazov, a professional jurist. The two people's assessors are (?Pyotr Popov--phonetic) a transport engineer, and Vladimir (?Obratsov--phonetic) a scientist. Today's hearing was attended by Soviet and foreign journalists, and representatives of the British embassy. There were also seats for the public.

Gerald Brooke chose to answer the court's questions in Russian. He declined the services of a translator invited by the court. Under Soviet legislation, the defendant has the right to demand hearings in his native language through a translator. Pronouncing Russian words slowly, Gerald Brooke revealed in examination who had sent him to the Soviet Union. He told about the "NTS" group, the so-called "Popular Labor Union" which has as its goal subversive activities against the Soviet Union using sabotage, espionage and murder. The group consists of men who have betrayed their homeland, and of many Gestapo agents. Prior to 1945, they were subsidized by the Third Reich. Now the group exists on dollars and pounds sterling.

Gerald Brooke told the court that the terrorists of the MTS enjoys the patronage of the British authorities. At the same time, he said that in carrying out his criminal assignment, he had Britain's welfare at heart. Representatives of the NTS in London provided Gerald Brooke with subversive materials, including instructions for the reception and decoding of radio transmissions. He was given a code table and a portable printing plant to print anti-Soviet leaflets. Brooke delivered these carefully camouflaged items and equipment to a private flat in Moscow where he was caught redhanded.

In examination, Brooke revealed that had he not succeeded in delivering the parcel to the address, he was to hand all the espionage equipment to the British Embassy in Moscow for shipment back to London through the diplomatic pouch. It was stated in court that when training Gerald Brooke for subversive activities in the Soviet Union, the representatives of the MTS made him go through a special course. He was made to alter his appearance. He was told to shave his beard, so as not to attract attention. The way he appeared in court, in a dark suit and dark striped tie, he would not have stood out in a crowd. In preparing Brooke for his mission, the representatives of the NTS undoubtedly had the extensive circle of his Moscow acquaintances in mind. This was not his first visit to Moscow. He was here on a postgraduate course at Moscow University lasting 10 months, in 1959 to 1960.

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Defense counsel Nikolay Borovik, Moscow lawyer, asked the court to call as witnesses the defendant's university friends. Permission was granted. During the examination, the prosecutor, Nikolay Terekhov added: Do you think that the Soviet people who met you and know that you have studied at one of the best schools in the Soviet Union, will be right in calling your behavior rank ingratitude? Gerald Brooke stated in reply (voice recording in Russian, presumably of Brooke--ed.)

(Announcer:) They would be absolutely right. I curse the day and hour that I took this road, the defendant stated.

Additional Coverage

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 July 1965--L

(Text) Moscow, 23 July--The witnesses who testified today at the trial of 27-year-old Gerald Brooke fully confirmed the indictment furnished by the prosecutor. "Defendant Brooke gave me the album and handbag with anti-Soviet materials concealed in them," said witness Yuri Konstantinov. Brooke was caught red-handed in Konstantinov's flat in Moscow on 25 April. During the hearing, the prosecutor announced that no charges will be preferred against Yuri Konstantinov. "Witness Konstantinov had no criminal ties with Brooke or the people's Labor Union--NTS. He acted as a patriot of his country," the prosecutor said. To meet with Konstantinov, Brooke and his wife left the group of British tourists on the evening of 25 April, Vera Bahanova-Belova, who works as a guide in Moscow, confirmed. It was proved at the trial that the materials brought by Brooke to the USSR are anti-Soviet and subversive in nature. Experts--criminologists, chemists, and radio specialists--who also gave testimony today established the hostile nature of the materials of the People's Labor Union.

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